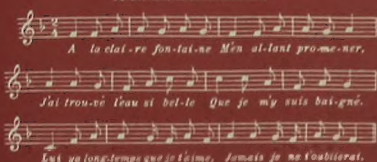


A LA CLAIRE FONTAINE



A la claire fontaine
M'en allant promener,
J'ai trouvé l'eau si belle
Que je m'y suis baigné.
Lui ya longtemps que je t'aime,
Jamais je ne t'oublierai.

J'ai trouvé l'eau si belle
Que je m'y suis baigné:
Sous les feuilles d'un chêne
Je me suis fait sécher.
Lui ya longtemps, etc.

Sous les feuilles d'un chêne
Je me suis fait sécher:
Sur la plus haute branche
Le rossignol chantait.
Lui ya longtemps, etc.

Chante, rossignol, chante,
Toi qui as le cœur gai;
Tu as le cœur à rire,
Moi je l'ai à pleurer.

Lui ya longtemps, etc.
Tu as le cœur à rire,
Moi je l'ai à pleurer:
J'ai perdu ma maîtresse
Sans l'avoir mérité.
Lui ya longtemps, etc.



Fort William Guide



The first white men in this area were French Canadian explorers and traders. In 1679 and again in 1717 they built forts on the banks of the Kaministiquia River which served as bases for their western journeys. By the mid eighteenth century traffic to the West was moving over the shorter and easier Pigeon River route; the Kaministiquia route had been abandoned and forgotten.

The North West Company inherited the legacy of the French explorers and traders. From a small association of partners in 1779, the Company grew rapidly under shrewd management into a vast fur trading empire. This growth was sustained by the perseverance and courage of the partners and the journeys to the Arctic and the Pacific by such Nor'Westers as Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Simon Fraser and David Thompson.

To move trade goods and furs during the brief summer over such vast distances, the company developed an ingenious system whereby, each spring, canoes starting from Montreal and others from posts in the interior, would meet on the shore of Lake Superior, exchange cargoes and return before winter set in.

The North West Company's first inland headquarters was established at Grand Portage, in what is now Minnesota. American independence and the threat of U.S. customs duties forced the Nor'Westers to move to British soil. In 1798 Roderick McKenzie rediscovered the earlier French route and the partners decided to relocate on the Kaministiquia. Construction began in 1801 on the new fort, which was carefully designed to be the nerve centre of the Company's continent-wide trade empire. The first "Great Rendezvous" was held there in 1803.



From east and west some 2,000 employees converged each July on the Fort. While the precious furs from the west were exchanged for trade goods brought up from the east, the wintering and Montreal partners analysed company fortunes, divided profits and determined corporate policy. For the voyageurs and partners alike it was a time of hectic activity and boisterous celebrations.

In 1821 the North West Company amalgamated with the Hudson's Bay Company, which traded with England via Hudson Bay, by-passing Lake Superior and Montreal. No longer the linch pin of the Northwest, Fort William became only one of many local posts and closed in 1881. In 1902 the last of the original buildings was levelled to make way for a Canadian Pacific Railway freight yard.

By blazing trails into the wilderness in search of fur and by establishing posts throughout the interior, the Nor'Westers opened up the country for future settlement.

The reconstruction project is operated by the Ministry of Culture and Recreation with advice from the local Fort William Advisory Committee.

Significant dates in the history of Fort William and the North West Company:

1679 Daniel Greysolon du Lhut established Fort Kaministiquia on the north branch of the river by Lake Superior.

1717 Zacharie Robutel de la Noue established the second Fort Kaministiquia.

1729 Pierre Gaultier de Varennes, Sieur de la Verendrye took charge of Fort Kaministiquia and used it as a base for exploring the Northwest.

1763 The Treaty of Paris ceded New France to Britain.

1779 Formation of the first North West Company association of partners.

1794 By Jay's Treaty, Great Britain is obliged to abandon all posts within American territory, including the N.W. Co. headquarters at Grand Portage.

1798 Roderick McKenzie rediscovered the Kaministiquia route into the interior.

1803 The first Rendezvous was held at the new fort at the mouth of the Kaministiquia River.

1807 New Fort, also called Fort Kaministiquia, was renamed Fort William.

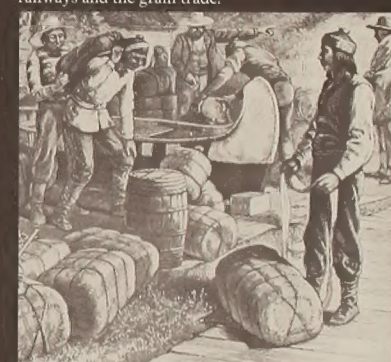
1812 David Thompson produced the first comprehensive map of the Canadian North West.

1816 Thomas Douglas, Fifth Earl of Selkirk, captured Fort William on August 13, 1816 and occupied it until the following May. This was in retaliation for the Massacre of Seven Oaks on the Red River.

1821 The last Rendezvous was held at Fort William. In this year, the N.W. Company was absorbed by the Hudson's Bay Company.

1881 Hudson's Bay Company closed Fort William.

1883 In the nineteen years to 1902 all the buildings of the Fort were demolished to make way for the railways and the grain trade.



The key numbers are for identification purposes only and do not imply a visit sequence.

- 1 Wintering House
- 2 Dr. McLoughlin's House and Apothecary
- 3 Stone Store
- 4 Indian Shop
- 5 Powder Magazine
- 6 Liquor Store and Canteen
- 7 No. 1 Corn Store
- 8 No. 2 Corn Store
- 9 Provision Stores
- 10 Dry Good Stores—Shops.
- (10A) **Toilets and Telephone**
- 11 Pack Stores
- 12 Counting House

- 13 Dry Good Stores—Outfits
- 14 East House
- 15 "Hangard"
- 16 North West House
- 17 Great Hall
- 18 Bell House
- 19 Guides' House
- 20 Kitchen
- 21 Hospital
- 22 Necessary
- 23 The Common Gaol ("Pot-Au-Beurre")
- 24 Council House
- 25 Tradesmen's House

- 26 Carpenter's Shop
- 27 Blacksmith's and Tinsmith's Shop
- 28 Armourer's and Tailor's Shop
- 29 South Canoe Shed
- 30 Cooper's Shop
- 31 Agret Store
- 32 North Canoe Shed
- 33 Mr. Tait's House
- 34 Naval Shed
- 35 Cattle Barn
- 36 Cattle and Sheep House
- 37 Barn.

- 37 **Toilets and Telephone**
- 38 Stable and Cow House
- 39 Barn
- 40 Cottages
- 41 Ice House and Dairy
- 42 Boucher's House
- 43 South West Bastion
- 44 South East Bastion
- 45 Main Gate and Guard House
- 46 Parking and Visitor Information
- 47 Wharf
- 48 Observatory

